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Governor Doyle Announces \$100,000 Grant to Expand Long-Term Care Options in Southeastern Wisconsin

Fourth in a Series of Grants to Help Expand Family Care Statewide

KENOSHA - Governor Jim Doyle today announced a \$100,000 grant to help create a regional care management organization that will provide Family Care and Partnership long-term care services in Southeastern Wisconsin, allowing seniors to leave nursing homes to and instead get long term care in the community without going on a waiting list.

The grant is part of the Governor's proposal to expand Family Care statewide – an initiative he unveiled in his State of the State Address that will eliminate waiting lists for community-based long term care. The initiative is designed to meet the Governor's goal of reducing the use of nursing homes by 25 percent over the next eight years.

"No senior should be forced to live in a nursing home if they neither need nor want to be there," Governor Doyle said. "Helping seniors move back to the community – with more appropriate care – will save taxpayer money. More importantly, it will help seniors live with the dignity and independence they deserve."

The Southeastern Wisconsin Care Management Organization is a public/private partnership that involves four private organizations – Community Care, Inc., Community Care in Action, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and The Management Group – as well as five counties –Kenosha, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington, and Waukesha.

According to its proposal, members of the Southeastern Wisconsin Care Management Organization will partner to create reliable and easy access to aging and disability resource centers, design a centralized system for eligibility determination for all individuals who apply for Family Care and Partnership, and eliminate waiting lists for community based care in Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties by 2010.

This is the fourth in a series of grants, totaling \$1.4 million, that Governor Doyle will award to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community based long term care. The grants will help develop community and multi-county partnerships like the Southeastern Wisconsin Care Management Organization.

More information about the Governor's State of the State initiatives, including the Family Care expansion, is available on the Governor's webpage at:

http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?locid=19&prid=1650